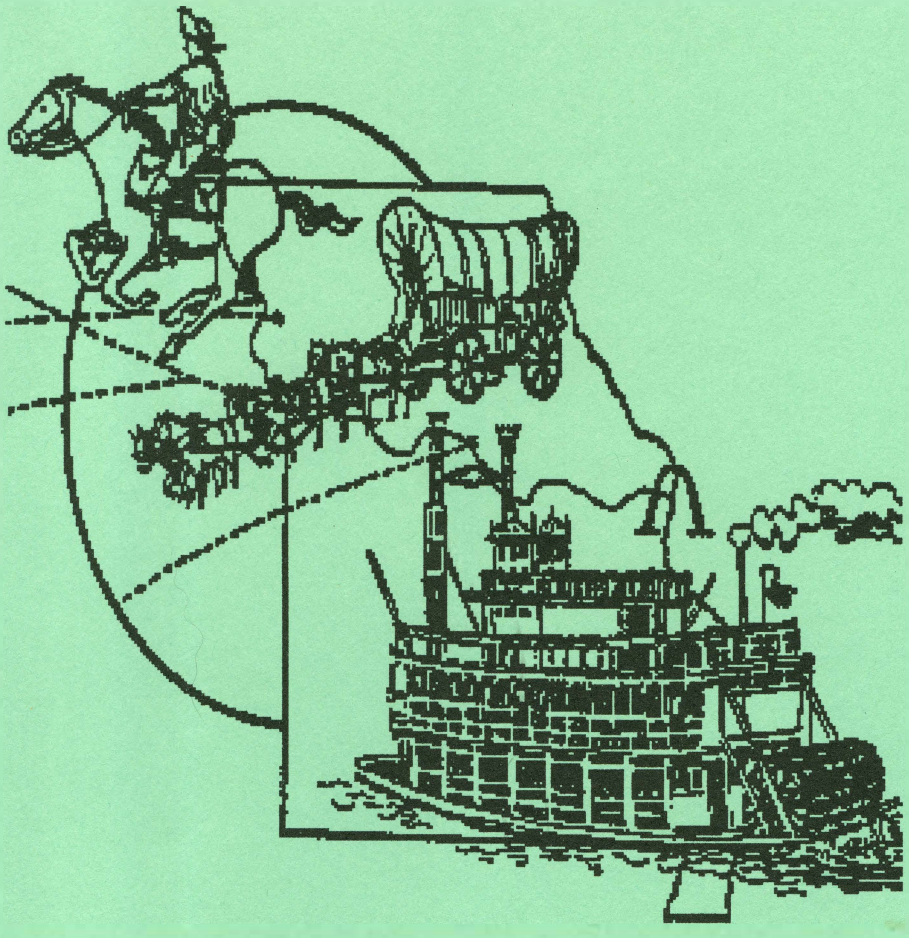

Toward The Setting Sun

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Toward The Setting Sun

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FROM THE EDITOR

This season includes the major anniversaries of a series of events that mark our modern history. The most prominent, perhaps, is the centennial (100th) anniversary of the outbreak of World War I. That "war to end all wars" was the first in which armies from every continent, except Antarctica, were involved in the fighting. It was the first phase in a world war that continued through World War II, and the Cold War. For an excellent history, well-written, of the beginning of the war, look at Barbara Tuchman's *The Guns of August.* To see what the war was like for those who fought it, and to picture the immensity and awfulness of those four years, take a trip to the World War I Museum at the Liberty Memorial in Kansas City. This is *the* national museum of the war, by an act of Congress, and is well worth a long half-day's visit.

This is also the bicentennial of the end of the War of 1812. That's the one where the British burned Washington. The Treaty of Ghent, ending the war, was signed on December 24, 1814. Because of the slowness of communication in those days, word did not reach our western frontier until spring, when Andrew Jackson's little army soundly defeated the British regulars outside New Orleans. The War of 1812 reminds us that this is also the bicentennial of the writing of the Star-Spangled Banner. It was written during the naval action when the British tried to take Fort McHenry and the city of Baltimore.

But there is more. The year 2014 marks the 250th anniversary of the founding of the city of St. Louis. AND it is the bicentennial of the death of Thomas Coke, one of Wesley's closest associates. He was the second bishop of the Methodist Episcopal Church in America, and a great missionary, who spent more time in the West Indies than on the continent of America, and who died on the way to India to found a mission there.

So you will find a lot going on around you this fall, as we remember our heritage. For this issue of *Toward the Setting Sun*, we are not dealing with any of them, however. Instead we are looking at the life of a United Methodist laywoman, Anne Scahill. When Anne was honored by Della Lamb Community Services in 2011, her biographical material read like this:

"For more than nine decades, Anne Scahill has been in the service of others. It all began in 1920 when her parents, who met and married at Institutional Church, placed their infant daughter in the church nursery. She quickly became a 'pet' of the Deaconesses (operators also of the Well Baby Clinic and first Day Nursery of Kansas City – at the Institutional Methodist Church and Neighborhood House) basic units of what is now Della Lamb Community Services. Thus Anne's frequent claim (unsubstantiated) to being one of the original babies in day care at Della Lamb. Since then she has been a leader, an innovator, a tireless volunteer.

"She began teaching Sunday school when she was 16, and her youth leadership and adult Sunday School activities continued for 72 years.

"A faithful member of Trinity United Methodist Church since 1958, she served as Chair of Church Council and Missions Committee. She also served as a District Officer for both the Women's Society of Christian Service and United Methodist Women and Southwest Missouri Conference President of United Methodist Women. In recognition of her service she was named 'District Woman of the Year' in 1997.

"Anne's presence was felt in education, too. She helped establish the initial combined office for the KC District Superintendent and the Methodist Conference Board of Education in 1943 and she was the first clerical staff member at St. Paul School of Theology from 1959-1970. Anne Scahill was the first recipient of the Robert and Martha Marble Missions Award from the Missouri West Conference.

"Anne didn't let geographic boundaries hold her back. As District Mission Secretary she was responsible for the Methodist Conference's 'Missionary in Residence' programs from Africa and Korea. From 1970-1973 Anne was the Guesthouse Coordinator of Vietnam Christian Service in Saigon, providing hospitality services for volunteers who came to Saigon to help in medical missions for Vietnamese citizens. In the 1980s she went to India and Africa with the Conference Advance for Christ mission teams. In addition to traveling to all 50 states, Anne's passport shows 6 continents and 44 countries."

Donna Ziegenhorn, who interviewed Anne for this article, is also a long-time member of Trinity United Methodist Church in Kansas City. She is the author of the acclaimed play, *The Hindu and the Cowboy*. We are grateful to Donna for providing this article.

As always, if you have material you would like to have published in this journal, we are more than willing to work with you to get that done. Email me with your ideas at jogooch@aol.com. We welcome all suggestions.

John O. Gooch, Ph.D.

Editor

"LIVING FOR JESUS"

ANNE SCAHILL
AS TOLD TO DONNA ZIEGENHORN

Donna - Today is April 8, 2013, and I'm talking to Anne Scahill at her home in. . . .

Ann - Armor Oaks Independent Living Community.

Donna - Okay. And Ann has been a member of Trinity United Methodist Church since.

Anne - 1958.

Donna - Okay. Well, Anne, I want to, this morning, interview you and try to capture some of the stories from your life. And so, maybe you could start off by telling me when and where you were born, and a little bit about the family that you grew up in.

Anne - I was born at 42nd & Forrest, here in Kansas City, Missouri. Haven't made much progress. I'm at 81st & Wornall now. And, um, I had my mother and father, a brother Tom, my sister Jeanette, and we lost one little girl in between. Then dad remarried after my mother died when I was thirteen.

Donna - Can you tell me a little bit about that? How did your mother die and what impact did that have on you and your siblings at the time?

Anne - She had cancer. And she just put off what she kind of knew about until it got to be so bad and we couldn't afford a doctor and going to the hospital, she thought, so she worked all day Wednesday, dad met her and took her to the hospital, and she was gone by Sunday.

Donna - So what kind of cancer was it?

Anne - Cancer of the womb. And so that left me at age thirteen, and my brother was twelve, and my little baby sister was five. So I became the head of our family, and respected that, taking care of, and Tom and I just made Jeanette our little girl. We took her everywhere, even when she didn't want to go. She said.

[laughter]

Donna - You know, I can't help but wonder, given the circumstances of your mother's death and how she didn't take care of herself, what kind of emotions did you have over your life about that?

Anne - I didn't really think about it. I just missed her. And we didn't analyze. We knew what happened and that was that. We didn't go through things like that. What's the point? She was gone.

Donna - And your dad was a United Methodist pastor, wasn't he?

Anne - Well, Dad started out as, he sold stationery, and he was an insurance salesman, and it was during the depression, and he was out of work every once in a while. Two different insurance companies that he worked for folded, and so Mother, along with my grandmother, my aunt, finally my cousin and myself, worked with the John Taylor Dry Goods Company. It was a home base for some of us.

[chuckle]

Donna - You know, now you mentioned 41st & Forrest.

Anne - 42nd. 4224 Forrest.

Donna - And the time of sort of the depression. Tell us a story of what it was like to grow up in the community at that point.

Anne - Well, we lived in a rural community. My folks helped establish what's now Claycomo, which is north of the river. And they were one of the first settlers. They helped build the McMurry Methodist Church out there. We went to the Munger School. It was one of the best schools in the state.

Donna - Was it Munger? Can you spell that?

Anne - Munger. M-U-N-G-E-R. Munger grade school and it was eight grades.

Donna - Mm, hm.

Anne - So my brother and I finished school there.

Donna - So you didn't grow up around 42nd.

Anne - No.

Donna - And Forrest.

Anne - No. Actually, I think we moved when I was about a year old. And my parents had always been, up to that point in time, members of the old Institutional Methodist Church, down at 7th & Admiral. I don't think it exists now.

Donna - Yes. I'd like for you to tell about that particular church.

Anne - Well, it was a very special church. And around the turn of the century a new aspect of congregational work was institutional. Everything in a church. And so they did. They had the very first public nursery. It was called the Kemper Nursery. And on Sundays, of course, I was in that nursery and nurses played with me because the people who worked there were the deaconesses of the Methodist Church at that time, and they attended school at Scarritt, which is up on Scarritt Point. It's still called Scarritt Point. The Scarritt School itself, now, is down in Nashville, Tennessee, but it still exists.

Donna - And you mentioned "Kemper." Was the Kemper family Methodist family?

Anne - No, not necessarily. It was a public nursery. The first one in Kansas City. It started out at the Melrose Methodist Church. The women out there had a community thing. It got bigger and they moved to another spot, and then they moved to the Campbell Street Methodist Church. And then when Institutional was formed, and out of this Institutional church they had boys work. Girls work. They fed the hungry. Ms. Dorothy Dodd from the "North Georgia Conference" [spoken with southern slang, giggle], she was one of their head deaconesses. She was called the angel of Little Italy. She could go anywhere, and do anything, and she would appear before the juvenile court, and the judge would say, well they had these boys, and she would say, "Oh, Judge. They're not bad boys." And he would assign them to live, then, at the Institutional Church until the Spofford Home was created. Mrs. Spofford was a part of the group, and she gave her home to be a special home for these children.

Donna - And where was the Spofford home at that time?

Anne - Well, I think her home was around 27th and Paseo. And then they moved out to around 55th and Swope Parkway. And, of course, now they're out at 9700 Grandview Boulevard.

Donna - And . . . . what. . . can you give me, like a, range of years that the Institutional Methodist Church was most active.

Anne - No, but I could look it up, but I can't tell you right off hand. It was in the early 1900s. And then they moved when the building closed, they named it the Della C. Lamb Community Center and that portion moved out to 500 Woodland.

Donna - So that Institutional Methodist Church really was the foundation for two very significant ongoing ministries--Della C. Lamb and Spofford Home.

Anne - Yes. That's right. And, I said I was one of the first kids in the nursery, but it was mostly on Sunday, you know, and the deaconesses were there, and mom and dad were there, or when they went down for some work. And I was kind of a pet. So I say I've been a member of the Della Lamb Community Service for a long time. And when I was a teenager I worked there on Friday afternoons. I was employed at the Kansas City Star, and I didn't go to work until 5:00. And I worked until 10:00 at night.

Donna - What was your job at the Star?

Anne - I started in circulation and started to move to cashier department.

Donna - Anne, can you tell me about growing up . . . what was, like, one of the most formative experiences you had. Can you tell a story about that?

Anne - Well, first of all, my brother and I, Tom and I, were a team. It was always Tom and Anne. And you know when they say, "When one or two," well that makes a

lot of difference. And, of course, since we were both very active and everything, we were leaders in everything. I mean, we didn't know it at the time, we didn't concentrate on it or anything, but because there was two of us and we all did the same thing, but I always been very grateful for being part of a Christian family. Who acted out and talked and lived the way they felt people should.

Donna - And you and Tom both became lifelong leaders in the Methodist Church. Your brother becoming a pastor.

Anne - No.

Donna - No?

Anne - No. Tom was the lay leader of the Conference for many years. Eight years. And I started, well we were all, both, in the youth work, of course, as it came along, and we were in youth work in our church. I had the junior high and he had the senior high. Poor kids didn't have a chance.

[laughter] And we still have those friends. In fact I had eight of them here for lunch here last year. One of our youngsters was eighty that day.

[laughter]

Donna - Anne, I don't know if you told me, what year were you born?

Anne - I was born in 1920. I'm 93.

Donna - And what was your birth date?

Anne - January 30.

Donna - Okay. January 30.

Anne - 1920.

Donna - 1920. . . So, Anne, I think about you and what little I know about you and I think about your various experiences, and, tell about how you came to go to Vietnam, and when that was, and paint a picture for what your life was like when you were in Vietnam.

Anne - Okay. Let me first tell you that we were always in church. That was our life. Youth work. Young adults. And we were always active in District. And local church. And Conference. I was the Conference youth president in 1943. And Tom was always active. And you mentioned my brother who was a preacher. That is my half-brother, Joe. He was the result of the marriage of my father to his second wife. And we also had a stepsister. Our stepmother, Josephine, had a daughter, Venia. And she and Jeanette, my little sister, were very, very best friends in grade school, third and fourth grade, and they thought their parents married just so they could be together.

[laughter] And then they had a son, Joseph, and he is the one now who you have met. Because he is the only one left. And he lives in Omaha. He is a pastor. He retired three years ago. That takes care of that. And Tom and I grew up in Claycomo, across the river, in the Northland, and Tom and I started to school. High school in North Kansas City. And it was at that point, after mother had died, that dad, he was just a local pastor, so he filled in, so he'd went full time and that's when we started moving around.

Donna - And so your father, at that time, did he attend seminary?

Anne - No.

Donna - You didn't have to.

Anne - No. Especially since he was a local pastor. And, the requirements were more stringent for ordained elders. But he would fill churches that other churches didn't like, small churches, and for three years I moved every year and then I came into Kansas City Business College. Bishop Holt would come into my office when I served as secretary for the district superintendent and the conference board of education, director of education, joint office, was in the Methodist Publishing House building over on Locust and I was there for ten years. I set up the office. It was the first office they had. And from that time on, then, I was in district and conference youth work, and conference young adult work, and I just knew everybody. And when I went to Vietnam, the question you asked, I had been working in the Saint Paul School of Theology. Which I was the very first lady employee when they brought it into Kansas City. And I served there for eleven years. And when the associate pastor at Trinity where I was a member at that time, was John Jonniver. I don't think you were there then. And then John taught out at the National Training School. It was at Van Brunt and Truman. And then it became National College. And he was a professor. And then he was assigned to the Board of Mission in New York. He was a personnel person. He came into Kansas City one day, wanting to see Dr. Ridgepath, who was our pastor at Trinity, and for whom he had worked for many years as our associate, and he wanted to go out and have lunch with Dr. Ridgepath, so I drove him out. And as we went back to the seminary he said, "When are you going to come work for me?" I said, "Well, I think this would be a good time to talk about it." The next week he sent me a letter wanting to know if I would go to Vietnam.

[laughter]

Donna - Can you remember, what was your reaction? Were you surprised?

Anne - Yeah, kinda. I said, "We're going to have to talk about this."

[laughter] My family was very supportive, but they really weren't happy about it. That wasn't really a good time to go to Vietnam. That was 1970.

Donna - Oh boy.

Anne - and 73. I was there from '70 to '73. And I left Vietnam in '73, two weeks after we had shut down and supposedly left the country and the war was over for us.

Donna - So where were you in Vietnam and what was your mission and your living arrangements and who were you working with?

Anne - Actually, I was hired and paid by the United Methodist Board of Missions. But I was assigned to the Church World Service Organization. But the Church World Service and the Mennonite group, and Lutheran World Service--those three denominations, had this Vietnam Christian Service Organization and I was stationed in Saigon. But they were the three denominations that were in charge of it. So I went first, I had a week's training at Stoney Point, New York, and I went to Saigon April the 10th, 1970. My job was as guest house director. They had a big house. And this is where we had our language study classes. And this is where everybody reported in when they first came to the country. And we had different denominations from these three groups. The Mennonites had had a big service there before. The place where I lived at first was called Emdem.

Donna - Wait, Emdem?

Anne - Emdem. It meant, "Place of peace."

Donna - How do you spell that, do you remember?

Anne - E-M, and D-E-M. And it was on the outskirts of Saigon. And we had a main office in downtown Saigon. So we were in that house. I had three months of language study and then I took over in June as head of the guest house. And I had a staff of, at different times, five or so people. So I needed it. My language for that, and I was never proficient. Because, we had so many other people who were working that English was the house language for everyone. So I didn't get to practice very much.

Donna - Is there, I remember you told once a story, my memory is so vague, about a man coming to the door, or he came back, do you know the one I am talking about?

Anne - Oh. I think so. I worked with a woman at the Kansas City Star. And she had placed me on the prayer list down at Grandview at her Methodist church, and this young man was a service man. And he was from that church. And she had had him look me up, and he finally got around to it one Sunday morning. Well, eventually, he went home. But in the meantime, he had married and now he was getting, he was in construction, he was going to be reassigned, and he wanted his wife, they hadn't been able to get her out yet.

Donna - So she was Vietnamese?

Anne - She was Vietnamese. And, so, he wanted me to look her up and try and get things going. Well she had been on a list to go, but everybody kept paying money to get up on the list and she didn't have it. So he called and I went to look

for her. And he gave me an address. I said, "There isn't any such address, I'm sure." And he said, "It's down by the main market." [chuckling] "Oh, yes, sure." But anyway, well her grandfather runs a pool parlor. So I went down and I finally got out on foot and started canvassing the streets and I finally found somebody who could understand what I wanted to know. And I asked about the pool parlor--was there a pool parlor around there. Yes, and so I went and found it, and I talked to the man, he was the grandfather, and she was there at the house, with her *baby*. I hadn't heard anything *about* a baby. I didn't know what that meant. But anyway, I took her down and made arrangements to make an international call to him. And he had given us the wrong number. And we didn't get there. We got stopped on the way by police. And they were going around, and I said, "What are they talking about?" And Ms. Hall said, "They're saying, "It's ten dong. No pay." Meaning, they knew this was a ten line thing, and they weren't going to get me anything, and get me to pay to leave 'em alone. I just told 'em, "Give me a ticket and I'll go tomorrow to the gate." They finally let us go, but we were late to the telephone place. And one man, when he heard what was going on, was very generous and gave up the last slot for that night to let her talk and we couldn't get him. So he finally called back. Anyway, we finally got her out, but not the baby.

Donna - So the baby. Was it the husband's baby?

Anne - Yeah, it was. He just hadn't thought to mention it. And why he didn't go to the American Embassy, and why he didn't have the Embassy take care of it, but I'll never know. But they finally get out, but she left the baby. Her mother and she were just were not speaking. Because her mother didn't like Americans. There wasn't a good American anywhere. And then one day she and her mother came roaring into our house, we had now moved into town on Fontanyon, and we were just two doors down from the main office. And it was a nice big house, we couldn't own property, and this was owned by a Chinese. Beautiful place. And she came roaring through the gates with her mother and her mother was just very nice. And I just enjoyed her. And she finally told her daughter, "Well, that's the only good American there is."

[laughter] And they all finally got to come over to the United States, but it took years.

Donna - So you're talking about the mother-in-law, so to speak, of the American, and the baby, too?

Anne - Yeah, and the baby, too.

Donna - Oh, great.

Anne - It worked out well.

Donna - Anne, what was it like to be in Saigon during that period of history?

Anne - Actually, it hardly seemed like there was a war in progress. We were as safe there as we probably would have been anywhere. They did not like for us to go

up country which is where we had a number of units. Our colleagues were stationed in various little towns up there. We had community service work and we had social workers, a lot of social workers that we trained, and we had two hospitals, one in Na Trang and one in Plaku. And then we had agriculturalists, community service workers, social workers, nurses, doctors, so that was the type of work that we did as Vietnam Christian Service.

Donna - So you had left before Saigon fell.

Anne - No.

Donna - So you were there?

Anne - Oh, before it fell. Yes. I left two weeks after our people stood down. I tell you, it was quite a thing watching that American flag come down and another one replace it. It was something I'd never experienced.

Donna - I can see it is emotional for you still.

Anne - It was. It was kind of emotional. But there was not very good feelings between our two forces. Our men had no idea what it was like, what the traditions were, what their lifestyle was. And they just couldn't quite get along very well.

Donna - I can't help but ask you, as you think back on that, now you have witnessed, also, America's involvement in Iraq and Afghanistan, have you drawn any correlations between those two?

Anne - No, I think they're really different. And I think we have tried, but maybe not hit strongly enough or long enough to do something diplomatic. But I don't think we've been doing much good over there and I see it as a waste in some respects but there is always some good. I think women's issues have improved somewhat. Mostly, and the fact that women are aware, now, of what can be done. I don't think they have achieved it yet, but they're working on it. And I don't know that that's good or bad for them, though I know one little girl, you know, was hurt. And I don't know how much good that really is. But at least it has opened up some areas. But I don't think that we have helped them make the advances. But I think we've run into a big problem there. And I do think we try, sometimes, to put in democracy where they have no people to back it up. You know, you need some people who know something in order to run a country. In fact, I think it's time for the American people who know something.

[laughter] But, I hope that we've helped someone. That's all. I hope we have. I'm not too sure sometimes.

Donna - Anne, I'm going to shift gears, back to the home front . . . well, is there anything else you'd like to say about your experience in Vietnam? Was there a particular encounter there that shifted something in your perspective? That's a big question.

Anne - Actually. I think just getting to know the people and to live in an environment for three years that's not like going in and fighting a war and shooting people and leaving. And I had a wonderful encounter. Just the social outlet we had when I was in training at Stony Point mentioned the fact at that time that the Vietnamese were considered the most intelligent of the oriental. And they were. And they were very interested in education. And I have a picture that I just love. They had very few schools, mostly run by Catholics. They had divided the day, and they had three different sessions to accommodate. And I have a picture of one morning, a bunch of little boys and girls, mostly girls at this particular time/ They all were in their allyays --you know, that's the long garment they all wear over their trousers, and they had on these white allyays, and they were going down the street, carrying briefcases. It was just darling. And my sister, Jeanette, was a professor on staff at the University of Iowa. . . her roommate had an assignment for a class on education in other countries. And she said, "I picked Vietnam." And they asked, "Why?" And she said, "Because my roommate's sister is over there." And so I got that assignment. And I got to see the minister of education. I went to classrooms. I had what I called a tutor when I was in language setting. And, of course, I didn't learn enough. And so most of us hired our own tutors afterwards. And I kept Nga - her name is N-G-A. We don't have that sound in the English language. N-G is always at the end. So I had a terrible time getting Nga right. And "Win"--N-G-U-Y-E-N is like "Smith" in this country. And so she was my tutor and so she became my personal tutor afterwards. And her family adopted me. And they clued me in on all their traditions, and their customs, holidays. One day a young woman who had come to the house. She had seen me and she knew I was there. And she came in and wanted to know if I would teach her English. I said, "No, because I think you need to have really basics, and I didn't feel like that." But I said, "I will have conversations with you." If that would help. Well, she became a nice friend, and she invited me to their home for the first day of Tet. Now Tet, you know, is a national holiday in the early, and. . . .

Donna - It's like their New Year, isn't it?

Anne - Well, yes, um, hm. huh. And they get ready for it. And so just one or two days or a week or three days, whatever it happens to be that year, but they carry it on for about two months ahead and two months afterward, so you can't get anything done. Anyway, she invited me to their home for the first day of Tet. And I called Gna and I said, "Didn't you tell me that that was just for family and I should probably say I couldn't come?" She said, "Oh, no. If they made a special invitation, that means they consider you a special guest. You must be sure and go." So I went, and got acquainted with her family and they showed me their family altar and all of that. And so I felt really quite honored. And she said that would be their highlight for the whole year. Now how would that sound to you? I was just really honored.

Donna - Yes. You know, it brings up, too, the rich exposure you got to Buddhism. I imagine. Is that right?

Anne - No. Not really. Gna's family were actually supposed to be Buddhist, but her dad read the Bible. They had a Bible in their home. And they had me come. Oh that was a rich experience, too. A sad one. I went to the office one day, and was just leaving to go back to the guest house down the road a couple of doors, and here came a pickup truck. And I looked, and this was driven by Phyllis Tribby, one of our nurses up in Zee Lin, which is up in the mountains. It's their resort area and their vegetable garden. I went over with her. She and Anakee Ninomia. The three of us were in the class at the same time, and we arrived there at the same, in Saigon at the same time. So, here was Phyllis. I said, "What are you doing down here?" She said, "Ted Studebaker was killed." He was one of our workers and he was at Zee Lin. And guerrillas had entered the house in Zee Lin, and they hid, but then the dogs started barking and he went to try to get the dog, and the guerrillas shot the dog and Ted. They did find the girls. The women. In the closet where they were hiding, but they didn't harm them. But then she drove his body into the office that night. And it was a shock. A real shock. I went on home while they were doing the work in the office to get her settled, and things arranged, and when I got home, they told me I was to go down to the Nguyen family home. They had lost their oldest son, a captain in the Air Force, and that was all in the same day. So I asked them what I could do for them, and they wanted me to provide. . .

[phone ringing]

Anne - a case of . . . let it ring . . . we'll let it go. . . I thought they only had three . . . okay . . . and they said, well, would I bring a case of Coke? Or pop? And then would I drive them over to the place where the body was. I said, "Yes," and they wanted me to take pictures. Well I was kind of worried about the pop. That wasn't something I would usually take to a funeral.

[laughing] And I was the only Westerner at the visitation. And I really felt uncomfortable taking pictures. But I did have a chance that night as we were sitting there, three of the members of his squad, came over and talked to me. And asked me would I be willing to tell them about my religion? Oh, I was so excited! [laughing] I said, "Oh, I'd love to." "In our language?"

Donna - Oh.

Anne - I wanted to cry. What an opportunity and I couldn't do it. But anyway, I took the pictures, and the next day I went to the funeral. And I provided the pop.

[laughing] Well, we got to that cemetery, and they were still digging the grave. And here was this hole, and here were these two little old ladies with wheelbarrows that were taking the dirt away. And we had to sit there and wait for them to finish. And then they had their service. And then we had to wait for these women to fill in that hole. Because they had to wait until it was ready to put on their religious symbols and things that they usually do for a funeral. We were there all day. This was a tropical country. It was hotter than blazes. I could see why they needed everything they could get to drink.

[laughing] That explained the pop.

Donna - Right.

[more laughter]

Anne - But that was a different experience. And a sad one in different ways. The loss of the son, and then, the loss of my chance to talk about my religion.

Donna - Right. Well that's never . . . that's something you've had lots of opportunities in your life to do, is witness to your faith and your religion. Um, let's see . . . you know, I'm curious. Just as a female, and knowing that we grew up in different generations. And, um, for you, growing up as a woman who obviously was a strong leader. And had a lot of desire to serve the world. And to be engaged. Did you feel. . . was there a point in your life where you thought that you thought you had to make a decision about what direction you thought your life was going to take in terms of your service to the world or your? I don't know whether you had a desire to be . . . to have a family or not . . . but you've never married.

Anne - No, but I've had 25 kids a year for a lot of years. I called my Sunday School class and my Junior League and MYF and all, those were my kids. Those were my kids. They're still my kids.

Donna - Well, I just know that women of your age that were teachers, very often, they couldn't teach and be married at the same time.

Anne - My desire was to be a missionary. Or a teacher. Well, we didn't have the money for me to go to college. And, uh, was in Richmond at that time. I graduated from Richmond. I was in a couple of others before. And the principal was the father of one of my best friends that I had met years before at summer assembly, and then we became locker mates when I went to Richmond when dad was moved to Rayville. And, um, he was really disturbed about that. And he made it possible for me to work in the office to pay for my books and that sort of thing. But it disturbed him, that with my ranking, scholarship ranking and all, that I was not going to school. And he said, "But your dad gets a rate." And I said, "Yes. I would have $400." I said, "But we've got four other members in my family and an old car that gets most of that money." So I knew I was going to get to go to college. And I did come to Kansas City then, after I graduated and went to the College of Commerce and graduated from there, and took a job. But I really had wanted to be a missionary, but I didn't have the qualifications for that or for a teacher either way. I said I grew up in the depression, but you know, it wasn't nearly as bad now, as now because we were all in the same boat. We didn't have a lot of riches, rich people, and a lot of poor people. We were all in the same boat. We didn't even know we were so poor, actually, in many respects. But then when Dad started preaching, and I moved around for three years, and I was the head of the household, you know, and I was only fourteen.

Donna - What was that like? Here you are, fourteen, and responsible for running a household.

Anne - Well, and then I had to move, first thing, the year after mom died we started moving. And they had a party for us at church and I had done the laundry that day, and it didn't get dry in time before I went. So when we came back I just left it on the line overnight and it rained.

[laughter] So I had all this wet stuff when the truck came. And we went on up and I got up to Kearney, Missouri, and here was this line, oooohhh, six feet high. I couldn't even reach it. So and I didn't have any clothes pins cause they were on the truck and I had the laundry. So I went next door. And I ran into a very lovely lady. They were members of our church. And the daughter was there and she was a school teacher. She was six feet something. And I told her my problem. She came over and she hung up all my laundry for me.

[laughter] And so everything was. . . I really had a lot of help. Now moving into a small town like that, it's a closed community to most people, but the preacher always had a place. And so we as kids did, and of course, Tom and I were all together. And Jeanette was just starting to school then. But we had a lot of fun. But dad would never go back. That's the policy. You don't go back to a place you served. So we had a lot of friends in a lot of different places.

Donna - Mm, hm.

Anne - But as far as wanting to be something, I went to school and I got me a job. And I worked at the Kansas City Star. I had been working part-time at John Taylor's at a different time and then my first full-time job was at the Kansas City Star. And my uncle was the head bookkeeper so I had help getting that one. And Ben, after the war came, and I had a chance to open up this office, set up this office for the district superintendent because I had been active in youth work. I knew everybody in the Conference. And the district superintendent asked me if I would do that. Oh, I'd love to! But trying to get away from the Kansas City Star which was, you know, the war gave them authority, they had frozen their lawyers, employees, and so I had quite a time doing that. But then I finally got released. And so I set up that office and was in that office for ten years, except for one year when I went to Reno, Oklahoma to serve as the director of youth work for one of my pastor friends. Anyway, that's what I started doing and I loved it.

Donna - Anne, you know, you talk about your life and it's all revolved around the church and relationships with the church and service to the church. Was there ever a time that you lost your faith?

Anne - I think not. I can't think of a time. In fact there have been many times when I really clung to my faith. It's been a big help for me.

Donna - What was one of the toughest times you faced?

Anne - I don't know . . . what it would be. I think, of course at first, at the time of the death of my mother. Because, you know, we weren't expecting that, and we had no, I had had no occasion to deal with death. And I didn't know what we were

going to do. We had a grandmother and an uncle who lived two blocks behind us on the same property, and our grandmother was a great help. She was really wonderful for us. And she was for the whole family. She had a husband that we never knew where he was. Or who he was with.

Donna - Hm

Anne - And she supported the whole family. She worked at John Taylor's for over thirty years.

Donna - You mentioned this John Taylor's where you worked. Tell me, where was that and what.

Anne - It was at the end of the Petticoat Lane, there at 11th and Main.

Donna - And it was a clothing store, or?

Anne - It was a dry goods company.

Donna - Okay.

Anne - Peck's was on the corner, and then John Taylor's.

Donna - Okay.

Anne - And my grandmother worked there for thirty years. My mother worked there. My aunt worked there. I worked there. And my cousin worked there, so it was a family place.

Donna - Were you a retail clerk?

Anne - No, I worked back where they checked things. [laughing] You know, checked your coat, checked your packages, and any employee who bought anything had to send it down there and pick it up on the way out.

Donna - Okay.

Anne - And one night they were looking around for something and couldn't find it. "Anne, have you seen a package for Anne Scahill?" I said, "I think I know where I saw that," because I'd put it with my things!

[laughter] I'd thought grandmother had gotten me something to take home and I said, "Oh, I think I saw that."

[laughter] And so I met this woman. She had the young woman about my age, and she had the same name. She spelled it the same way. She had a brother, Tom, and her father's name was Tom.

Donna - No way.

Anne - And they pronounced it SKAY-HILL, of course, and they had a business over on Grand. So we ran into each other every once in a while, 'cause she was a Sunday School teacher up here at Country Club Christian, and we went to the same dentist at one point.

[laughter] So that was an interesting thing. But, hardships? No, I don't think so. I can't complain about anything.

Donna - Well, I'm not asking you to complain.

Anne - But I mean, it wasn't easy. We never had any money. And somebody said something about going skating or riding a bicycle. I never had a bicycle or skates cause we had oil roads. [laughing] Out where we lived at Claycomo. And it grew. And of course, it's a big part of the northern part of Kansas City now. But that was new. My brother, Tom, was the first white child born out there. They had had an estate that had slaves on it, and it was right across from the school. And so they had quite a Negro community. But he was the first white child that was born out there.

Donna - Well, huh. So your family kind of integrated that area.

Anne - Well, we. . . I don't know how much integration they did, but we started it.

[laughing] They were charter members of the Methodist Church and, anyway. . .

Donna - As I say. . .

Anne - We didn't do anything fancy. And we didn't have very much. But everybody was in the same boat, so you didn't really notice it so much. It was the way it was.

Donna - Anne, I want to ask you some about Trinity. First of all, how did you come to start attending Trinity?

Anne - Well, I had been a member of what was called Cleveland Avenue Methodist Church over at 26th and Cleveland. They sold that out when they put in the new highway. They took that property. And I needed to look around anyway. But I had moved from one place to another and I was living over here on Locust, and I was just around the corner from the church. And normally I traveled by bus. And I had to make three transfers. And Cleveland Avenue joined with Indiana Avenue, and then they joined with, added, Agnes Avenue to make the Aldersgate United Methodist Church, and I named it.

Donna - You did. How did you get to do that?

Anne - Well, we were looking for a name, you know, and I was going through the Conference journals because I was in the district office and I had all of them. And I said, "I don't see anything here called Aldersgate," and they thought that was good so they named it. And we were the first Aldersgate.

Donna - You were the first Aldersgate? Anywhere?

Anne - Uh, huh.

Donna - Whoa!

Anne - According to those journals that we had.

Donna - That's great.

Anne - So that was fun, too. But then, I was going to say, when we went to a meeting at Agnes Avenue, I had to transfer three times at night on the bus to get where I was going. And then here I was, two or three blocks from Trinity. And I finally made the choice to move to Trinity because I was living right there in the neighborhood.

Donna - Anne, you have witnessed an enormous amount of change

Anne - Oh, yes.

Donna - In, I'm talking about right now, specifically, about that neighborhood that you lived in. And in that church, and I'm wondering what has it been like for you to witness the amount of change that you've seen?

Anne - Well, it's been kind of sad. Because when they moved out, they moved out so far.

Donna - They, who?

Anne - The people that the congregation, members of the congregation. Because it was a family church at that time.

Donna - Which would have been what year?

Anne - 1958.

Donna - Mm hm.

Anne - And when I went there they were a congregation membership 1500, fifth largest church in the city. And it has really, when we're down to about fifty or seventy, sixty now, that's quite a change in itself. And we used the balcony. We needed the balcony.

Donna - Mm hm.

Anne - And we would have three services on Easter. Would just be packed. They even paid members of the choir to be the head soloist, tenor, and soprano. I think they had three at one time. By the time I got there they had Bill Skinner was the tenor. And he was the only one I think who was being paid at that time. And I had never encountered that in my little rural churches, you know.

[laughter] So it's changed considerably. And of course, now, that we have become a reconciling congregation, that has been another immense change. And I'm glad we are.

Donna - But yeah. Talk about that. Ann, one of the things that has struck me about knowing you over the years is your embrace of - your wide embrace of and range of people. And you mentioned Trinity has become a reconciling congregation, and we lost some of our members over that.

Anne - Not as many as I thought we would.

Donna - Um, right. So talk to me about that ...what ... has the issue of gay and lesbian, etcetera, always been clear in your mind in terms of God's love and acceptance or has that been a journey of unfolding for you?

Anne - It's still a journey. I still have a lot of questions about it, but I still believe God loves us all and I can't get past that.

Donna - Great.

Anne - It was amazing when the two guys got married, you know, and we then we had that service in the church. I was fascinated and so excited. His . . . the mother of one of them called me. I did the UMW work. She called me from Oklahoma and wanted to know what the UMW had to serve. I got all the calls for UMW and so Alicia connected us. And it just fascinated me. I was so enthralled with the fact that their parents . . . and they had standing beside them on the platform their brothers and sisters and cousins. It was a wonderful display of family realizing and recognizing and embracing a gay couple.

Donna - Yes.

Anne - And the two women in our Sunday School class - not a soul embraced them when they got married.

Donna - Who . . . who. . . I. . . .

Anne - Jacque and uh. . .

Donna - Oh, Angela . . . no. . . .

Anne - No. What's the other one's name?

Donna – Kristen.

Anne - Yeah, Jacque and Kristen. They went to Iowa and got married, too. But nobody . . . finally one brother has taken up to calling Jacque occasionally now. But her family still has not embraced it evidently, and I just can't see that. It bothers me that a family would not support their own child in something like that. And the difference between the two is just so enormous. And I have a little question

about it. In fact, our study on Matthew that we're having now in my Bible study class here - we're down to that part about what Jesus said about divorce and marriage. When I was growing up, divorce was a taboo much like the gay and lesbian thing is now.

Donna - Right. I mean if you . . . where were we talking about the fact that if you . . . if you were a pastor and you got divorced, um, didn't you lose your affiliation?

Anne - And how that has changed. My stepbrother, Joe, as you know . . . he was a pastor in New York and, uh, he got divorced and we thought, "Oh my," but he elected to come back home to Nebraska Conference where he had grown up and everything went fine. And he got married . . . lovely woman . . . brave woman taking on two kids. . . .

[laughter] And has had a wonderful ministry. Just, it's just how you equate that with Scripture is another thing. And when Jesus in Matthew says the first question . . . the first ordainment was Christ made us male and female to be together forever. It's kind of hard to overlook that.

Donna - Yeah, yeah.

Anne - And as man and woman. And yet, He also says to love everybody. And He loves everybody, and I can't see Him kicking them out of the house.

Donna - [laughter] That's right. Yes.

Anne - So as I say, I'm still working on it.

Donna - Now this . . . again back to witnessing this much change, and seeing the change in Trinity. Um, and here you are 93?

Anne - Ninety-three.

Donna - Ninety-three and so you're not going to be around forever. And as you think about the church's future, how, I mean, how do you hold the church in your, in your heart and in your thinking about how the church is changing?

Anne - I don't think we're changing quickly enough. I think we should have spoken out ages ago on this gay rights. And it bugs me. I'm proud of the Methodist church because they are so welcoming and embracing of different things. Some people say you can do anything if belong to the Methodist church. I don't go along with that quite. But um, I appreciate the fact that they consider we are broad-minded. But along with a lot of other people at this last General Conference, I was just dismayed that we didn't make more progress toward that because we're going to have to do it. There's no. . . . I mean, that's the way it's going to be whether we approve of it or think it's right or not. We need to support our people as . . . love them just like God does. We're pretty slow sometimes.

Donna - Yes, that can. . . .

Anne - It's moving in that direction. It's going to happen. But it bothers me that it's the government, not the church that's leading the way.

Donna - Yeah. I'm kind of jumping all over the place but I've done a lot of interviews with people who live around the Troost corridor, sort of around the general neighborhood where our church is. And the tremendous change that has happened there in terms of racial diversity in the neighborhood, and obviously like you said, I think that was largely responsible for driving a lot of the white folks further south.

Anne - Well, I don't know about that driving the white folks.

Donna - How do you see it?

Anne - I see it as them fleeing.

Donna - What were they fleeing?

Anne - They didn't want to live with black people. Troost is generally acknowledged as the dividing line. And then it became, before it got to be all black and drugs and stuff, it was Chapter 8. Poor people. Social service dependents that moved in. That was even more so than the blacks, I think, at first. And that just brought down the neighborhood and everybody's ability to function was decimated because they didn't have money. So that was another factor we don't always talk about. We do blame it on the black flight. But other people have moved out too for different reasons. And I just have to accept that as the way things go sometimes.

Donna - You know, you've chosen to remain at Trinity all these years. Um, what is it that's kept you there?

Anne - I'm just kind of a loyal person I think, and that has become my home, so that's where I go. Uh, they do some things that I don't like. And mostly they don't do the things that I would like. Just in every congregation. And why move, except for convenience? And as long as I could drive, that was no problem. I sure miss my car!

Donna - I bet.

Anne - Oh I'm so fortunate to have so many people offer to take me to church. I've just got four people in a row, and a couple of others yesterday. The two guys that sits there in front of you on Sunday.

Donna - Oh, Danny and Brian.

Anne - They said, "Now you know if you ever need a ride, we go right by your place." So there's another one. And recently when Fred and. . . .

Donna - Peggy.

Anne - And Peggy Paddock came back and I turned. When they came in one day and I said something to them and she said, "Do you know who this is?" I said, "I know who it is. He was in my Sunday School class when he was twelve years old. His parents remember that congregation very active at the time when I joined. And now he's a great grandfather showing pictures of his grandson. [laughter] So, it's home.

Donna - What? What is it that gives you hope for the future of the church?

Anne - Of Trinity or the Church?

Donna - I'll say the Methodist church.

Anne - I think we'll survive. I think we'll be making the changes that we need. And I think we have enough people that are devoted to Christ and the message of his mission that it will survive. And I hope it will be very active and retain its leadership among the denominations that it has. I don't think it's going to happen tomorrow, but by next General Conference, there's going to be some changes, I'm pretty sure. I just feel like it.

Donna - Good. That's a good positive note. Well, Ann, we've been talking for quite awhile and it's been great. And I'm sure we've only touched the surface. Is there anything else that you want to put on the record at this point?

Anne - Well, I'm surprised that I even got on the record. [laughter] I think that I've had a wonderful life, and I'm grateful that it began as part of a Christian family. And I credit that to a lot of it. And for a poor little girl out in the country that did a lot of reading, I have a favorite. Far away places with strange sounding names. And I never thought I'd get anywhere. That was going to be in the books that you read on the shelf. But my sister and I have traveled to six of the seven continents. And I never knew even what some of those were when I was growing up. And I can't believe that I've done that. There's been so many things that I've done that I never, ever thought would've happened. So that has been a real nice thing--my travel. And I get a big kick out of little things. One time, oh several years back, the choir sang "Living for Jesus" and they all came to me afterwards and said, "How did you like that?" Robert had told them that was my theme song.

Donna - Aw.

Anne - I got a big kick out of that. I thought that was so nice. While I was in Vietnam, the landlady where I lived before I went, she was upset because I didn't have anything for Christmas. It was right near Christmas, and she called the church. She talked to Carmen and she said, "You ought to have that choir send her a record of some Christmas music." And they did. She also went down. That I came back. That was the year that they built the stadium, the airport. And what else? There were three things. But anyway, when I came home, I came home to the new airport, and the new stadium, and oh, Crown Center. And she had gone down to Crown Center and had gotten a couple of application blanks.

She had this young woman who was going to be coming home from Vietnam who was going to need a job so she got application blanks. So the first interviews I had when I came home were down at Crown Center.

[laughter]

Donna - Did you go to work there?

Anne - No but I passed the typing test and she was getting ready to take me to the office where they were seeking. Where they were filling the position and she got a telephone call. And I listened to that call and it was about the delivery of alcoholic beverages for that particular section. And so I said, "Was that the place where you were planning on my working?" And she said, "Oh, that wouldn't be very suitable for you, would it?" And I said, "No, I don't think I would be interested," and I thought she was so understanding. But I loved that my landlady went to all that trouble.

Donna - That's awfully. . . .

Anne - I know some really nice people.

Donna - Yes.

Anne - And that Miss Dorothy Dodd that I told you about. She was such a big influence in my life. I worked down there. I did recreation for the youth group for a number of years. And we had then, in that time, what we called a booth festival. And all the church's youth groups would gather up food and we'd take it out to the National College out on Van Brunt, which is now home of the Saint Paul School seminary, until this fall. And so I finally got Institutional placed on the receiving desk along with the National College and oh, she loved that because that was what one of the things I did was deliver food on those Friday afternoons when I was there, deliver food to some people. But I got a big kick out her going before Judge Pendergast and saying, "But Judge, they're not bad boys." One day I went with her when she taught a Bible class at Aus ... Aus ... What is that?

Donna - Osowatamie?

Anne - No. . . . down in . . . . in that other. . Hmm . . . in the north end. . . Aus. . . . Aus. . . . anyway, it's another big social service thing.

Donna - Don Bosco?

Anne - Yeah, Don Bosco. And she was teaching a Bible class. And so we got down there and, uh, these boys were fighting each other. Getting all upset about things. And she tapped them on the shoulder, "I thought you told me you memorized that verse last week." He said, "Oh, I did." And he said, "Love thy neighbor." She said, "You don't know it until you practice it." And I thought, "That's a good lesson, right there."

Donna - Uh, huh.

Anne - But I enjoyed my work at Della Lamb. In fact, did you see my statue outside?

Donna - Yes, I did.

Anne - That's my lamb, Shepherd of the Lamb, that I was awarded honoree of the year.

Donna - Oh.

Anne - A year ago.

Donna - Oh. Congratulations, Anne.

Anne - I know, I loved it.

Donna - And you know Anne, you have made such a huge difference in so many lives.

Anne - I have enjoyed my life.

Donna - Well, yeah, and you've passed it on, the way you've passed on.

Anne - I hope so.

Donna - Yeah. I'm one who can sit here and say you've touched my life because you've, you inspire me. You do. You inspire me with your, um, like, your wide embrace, your love of learning, and, and your leadership which is still strong, um, leading.

Anne - I don't feel like I'm doing much anymore. I feel so bereft that I'm not on some committee, or doing some kind of work, and I really hated it when the UMW. . .

Donna - Yeah.

Anne - Fell through. I get to go to Broadway. They let me come to theirs.

Donna - Oh, good.

[Laughter]

Anne - And so I've enjoyed, I've been glad for that. And then the other thing was, um, what was I going to say?

[Pause] Anyway, I have enjoyed the whole thing, but I do miss certain things. And when we closed our last Sunday School class, adult Sunday School class, I felt like crying. I had been teaching Sunday School for 72 years.

Donna - Oh.

Anne - So I felt pretty lost.

Donna - Yeah.

Anne - I've enjoyed so much the Bible class here.

Donna - Uh, huh. Yeah.

Anne - So we meet every Tuesday morning. And we have about ten that come regularly and we'll have about fifteen or sixteen, but you know, we're old people. We get sick or we don't feel well or we have to go to the doctor's or something, that [chuckle] changes everything [chuckle].

Donna - Yeah.

Anne - But that's kept me busy. And kept me learning.

Donna - Mm, hm.

Anne - I feel like I'd better find out something if I'm going to be in charge of a class.

[chuckling] And that's the message my brother, Tom, and I always gave when he was the Sunday School superintendent, and I was the superintendent of my, uh, intermediate group. When we wanted teachers, you know it's hard to get Sunday School teachers, everybody says, "Oh, I don't know enough about the Bible." That's the best place to learn.

Donna - Mm, hm. Mm, hm.

Anne - To try and teach because then you've got to do some studying. It worked. We got quite a few teachers that way.

Donna - I want to ask you about Tom, who was obviously such a close connection for you, uh, I mean, of the heart, and, um, when did he die, and. And, tell me about what that was like for you.

Anne - It was six years ago. Six years ago. And, um, well, we were always out in front of the crowd. He was, uh, the conference lay leader, uh, for eight years. Everybody always wanted to know why he didn't become a preacher. He would say, "Because we need good laymen."

Donna - Mm, hm.

Anne - And he was a good layman. And he went by the name "Skay - hill."

Donna - Oh, okay.

Anne - When he was in the Navy they just called off your name.

Donna - Uh, huh.

Anne - And you didn't argue with a, an officer, or try to interrupt. So he just let it ride. And Jeanette did the same thing when she went to college. They'd call off her name in class and Dad said, "Well, I don't know what kind of teacher you're gonna make if you can't even teach 'em how to spell, or pronounce your name correctly.

[laughter] So we've had quite a lot of fun with that. And it's a byword. The whole conference know the story about "Scal" and "Scay-hill."

[laughter] Bishop Handy was especially bad. Uh, I was chairing the conference committee for a program. That was the first time we'd ever had a woman on there. And somebody said, "It's probably just a token," and I said, "Not if I'm in the job."

Donna - Yeah.

[laughter]

Anne - But anyway, I got to make the announcements of activities at noon every day. And Bishop Handy would say, "Alright, Ms. Anne. I guess you come up here and tell us what to do for the rest of the day. This is Anne "Scal," not "Scay-hill."

[laughter] So you know everybody laughs about it. Even out here at Church of the Resurrection, for the closing ceremonies, last spring. I mean, the opening ceremonies last spring, and they had a reunion of the first class 1967. And I was invited to go, and I went. And when President McCoy got up there to introduce me, he blubbed. And his secretary had even written there, "Rhymes with 'pal.'"

[laughter]

Donna - And he did it wrong.

Anne - And he didn't do it. He did it wrong, and I finally said, "It's Scal."

[laughter] And everybody just roared. They just roared. They just knew that that's what it was.

Donna - That was it.

Anne - But I felt so sorry for my niece, Amy. She was named after Jeanette, my sister. And, uh, Amy Jeanette. And so Joe, my preacher brother, who had the service, had her read the obituary.

Donna - Oh. I was there.

Anne - And she didn't want to do that, but she did. And I felt sorry for her. And then she got into it. Then she'd say, "Scal, Scal, no, Scay-hill." For this person. "And this is Scay. . . no, Scal." Everybody in the audience was just roaring, and she was in tears. I felt so sorry for her.

[chuckling] No, we've been active in the church all the way long.

Donna - And you've mentioned, um, your favorite song, um.

Anne - Living for Jesus.

Donna - Living for Jesus. Have you had a favorite Bible verse or two that's carried you?

Anne - Seek, Seek you first the kingdom of God and all of these things will be added unto you. That's in Matthew 6.

Donna - Matthew 6. Okay. Well, um, I guess we can draw this to the close for the moment unless there's something else you'd like to, to talk about.

Anne - Well, I want to say I had a wonderful experience in January.

Donna - What was that?

Anne - My cook and chief of the household staff when I was in the guest house in Vietnam.

Donna - Yes, yes. Uh, huh.

Anne - Her name was Chi-tu. She called, or her daughter did, and wanted to know if I would like for her to come and visit me.

Donna - This is just this January?

Anne - This January! Now that's forty years ago.

Donna - Oh my gosh!

Anne - A foreigner in a strange land, and when we talked about people she didn't remember all of them, of course, but she'd been a cook for a long time. Excellent cook. Uh, Mennonites had trained her, I think, in one of their mission stations.

Donna - Uh, huh.

Anne - But anyway, she was a lovely person and a fine Christian. Anyway, they called and wanted to know if I would like for her to come and see me. She was coming to visit her daughter in California and a son in Texas. Well, you know what I said.

Donna - Uh, huh.

Anne - Well, she came the first Sunday in January.

Donna - Oh my.

Anne - The first weekend in January.

Donna - Uh, huh.

Anne - Dick Nelson helped me take 'em around. And it was so wonderful. Can you imagine? And one of the other person was, at the time I was there, a young nurse, and she worked in the Mennonite mission station there, and came to the house a lot and was one of our instructors in the language. Her name was, ah, Ko-kee-an. She had given her money to help her make the trip. And I didn't know that until Chi-tu got here. She said, "Oh you must go see Ms. Anne."

Donna - Oh.

Anne - Can you feel how honored I felt that they even wanted to come and see me.

Donna - Oh, Anne. That is just a testimony of how you've made an impact on people.

Anne - Oh, I just, I wanted to cry. And the granddaughter came with her. They had to look up Missouri on the map, of course. They didn't know where Missouri was.

Donna - [simultaneously] Where Missouri was.

Anne - And, so, uh, Dick Nelson took me on a tour of the city. He's another good. . . I call him my knight in armor.

[laughter] In shining armor. And, so, uh, we took her on State Line, and explained that this side was Missouri, and this side was Kansas. Took her a while to get that in her head. She said, "Really? Two different states?" So she wanted her picture taken. So Dick stopped when the traffic was, uh, and we got a picture of her with one leg in Kansas and one leg in Missouri.

Donna - [simultaneously] One leg in Missouri.

Anne - So she could take it back and show her.

[laughter] Now, but oh, just to have her *want* to come.

Donna - Yes.

Anne - And not know, even, where Missouri was, and I worried about how she would finance it. She has absolutely no income.

Donna - Well she got help, it sounds like.

Anne - And I said, "How do you manage then?" And she said, "The Lord provides."

Donna - Mm. Mm.

Anne - I've been blessed with a lot of good friends.

Donna - Yeah.

Anne - And relatives.

Donna - You. . . .

Anne - It's been a pretty good life.

Donna - Very rich life.

Anne - Yeah, for a poor person, it was very rich.

[laughter]

Donna - Well, thank you, Anne. It's an honor for me to just be able to sit with you and hear, hear more about your life. I appreciate that.

Anne - Well, I'm bowled over that you even want to. It seems like I have been so . . . unusual about it. I just felt like I was getting along and doing what I had to do from one day to another. [chuckle]

Donna - You know, I, especially as you, um, you know, as you don't have your car, you know, and as you're probably spending more time here, I, I encourage you to write down some of these things. You're great at the computer.

Anne - Oh, I know.

Donna - Sit. . . .

Anne - I started, but I didn't get very far. I had a cousin who was in, uh, the book business. He was a salesman, you know, for uh, and he kept telling me, "You'd better write this down. You ought to write a book, Ann." [chuckle] I started. I got a couple of paragraphs, and that's as far as I got. [chuckle]

Donna - Well, one thing, I mean, you know, I've been wanting to interview you, but what really spurred me to get on it was, um, John Gooch saying that he wanted that story about the Methodist, the Institutional Methodist Church. And, um, I know he wants to write that up as part of the history of Methodism in Missouri.

Anne - I've got a book over here that he can have about. . . .

Donna - Talk about. . . .

Anne - It's Della Lamb, but it gives a little bit of the history.

Donna - Well, what I'm, yeah, and, and, so what I'm saying, is a lot of what you've lived, and what you alone know and remember, is important to the history of Methodism in Missouri.

Anne - Yes, because Institutional Church was one of the very first churches under this new concept. There was one in Boston that produced, uh, the Goodwill Industries out of the church.

Donna - Oh, uh, huh. Hm.

Anne - And out of our Goodwill, out of our Institutional Church, here, we have Spofford Home, and, uh, Della C. Lamb.

Donna - Uh, huh.

Anne - Della Lamb Community Services is the way it's listed now.

Donna - Uh, huh.

Anne - And, uh, and so I had a chance to sort of get in on ground floor on all of those.

Donna - Yeah.

Anne - But my, my, my dad was really very active. And he was a good speaker. And he was a leader. And then my mother was more of a teacher type.

Donna - Mm, hm.

Anne - And so, Tom and I both inherited, I think, some of those. Mother was also sort of autistic. I didn't get that. [chuckle]

Donna - Well, you got a little of it here. [chuckling] Uh, huh. Yeah.

Anne - But my nephew, Tom, is pretty good at that.

Donna - Uh, huh.

Anne - And, um, so, I had a good background. They were very active here in the city in work that was going on, and they were members down at Institutional for a while.

Donna - Mm, hm.

Anne - And when they, that's when they met and got married. One lady was a deaconess down there. Her name was Soxman. And he said, um, "Could I take you out sometime? Take you home?" She said, "I hope." 'Cause she lived there!

[laughter] So I've had a wide range of people that I have met.

Donna - Uh, huh.

Anne - There was a time when there wasn't a minister around that I didn't know.

Donna - Uh, huh.

Anne - And I even helped make some of the appointments a couple of times. One time we had a man here, and the D.S., who was my boss, said, "What are we going to

do with Harry?" I said, "Make him go to school. Don't give him an appointment." And that's what happened.

Donna - Huh.

Anne - [chuckle] And another time I was the secretary to the secretary at the Annual Conference, and, you know, they read off the appointments after, at the close. Well, we all went to lunch, and this one fellow was with me, and there were three or four of us, and he said, "Yeah, as far as he knew, he was going back." First name off, moved him to someplace else. It could happen, you know.

Donna - Uh, huh.

Anne - And one of the men who was in charge of students brought me a report that I was to type up for the thing. I said, "Bob, this is not right. He's down at school, down at SMU. And he's at school at SMU. And he is someplace else." "Oh . . . well, make the corrections."

[laughter] So I did. [more laughter]

Donna - You probably know all kinds of stories that never saw the light of day.

Anne - Well, you know, I keep talking about my boys out of the seminary, 'cause I was there eleven years. And I was the very first lay employee.

Donna - Mm, hm.

Anne - So, I have a lot of boys who are all retired and some of 'em might even be passed away. But that was a wonderful experience. And from working in the district superintendent's office, which I set up in '43, in the old Methodist Publishing House, and worked there for ten years. So I knew, and all the appointees, I knew where they were, and where they should be, and all that. And then I knew all the students at the seminary. So there wasn't anybody in the area hardly that I didn't know. And now I don't even know who the ministers are in the city.

Donna - Yeah.

Anne - Things do change.

Donna - It happens. It happens.

Anne - I used to, I used to have a waffle supper once every year for the guys who stayed on campus during the week. I'd have 25 or so that would come out to the house. I only had one waffle iron.

Donna - Oh.

Anne - So I would fix a table that sat four of them at the table, and give them a waffle, and they'd take one square until they got full, and they'd go out and help with the dishes and stuff. The other four would sit. Once, the last year, I had to do it

twice. And that's what the women, the wives, always remembered when I met them.

Donna - Oh, huh. Interesting.

Anne - [chuckle] And one day they had a Wive's Association, and one time they came, wanted to know, if I would come and be their speaker. I said, "What do you want me to talk about?" "Well, you always seem to know everybody. And we want to know what to do when we're in a new church, and are going to meet all new people and everything." It's really, that's quite uh, uh, an event to look forward to with little pleasure. It's a chore to try and meet all these new people in a new church. So I went. I said, "All you have to do is stand in the doorway, and look around, and if you see somebody by themselves, go over and talk to them." And things will just move around like that.

Donna - Uh, huh.

Anne - I said, "Just take the initiative."

Donna - Mm, hm. Mm, hm. Ann, you've really witnessed The Women's Movement, I mean, from one side to the other. From when there weren't any women in the clergy, to, now there's probably more women clergy than there are men, from kind of the staid roles of the pastor's wife to, now, where women are often just as professionally engaged in one work or another as their spouse.

Anne - There are more women enrolled in the Saint Paul School of Theology than there are men.

Donna - Mm, hm.

Anne - Oh. We have here, uh, um, chair exercise every Saturday afternoon.

Donna - Mm, hm.

Anne - And then after that we have a conversation circle. And we usually have an alphabet letter. Well, last week it was "Z." And so I talked about Zimbabwe.

Donna - Oh, oh.

Anne - And our Africa University.

Donna - Uh, huh.

Anne - Because, when we were just kids, my parents thought if they wanted us to know certain things, so they would just have everybody. So we had a Junior League. And, uh, one summer, one summer, we talked about a little boy over in Africa. And for our project we went around the community gathering up pencils for our mission at Old Mutare, because Dad and Mom had a friend there. He was a member here at the Central Methodist Church named Dr. Hamilton Moore. And

he was out, he was stationed at Mutare. And we sent those pencils to him. Cost us more to ship them than they were worth. And the last letter he sent out of Africa was to our house, thanking us for those pencils. And when he was sent home, they buried his heart in Old Mutare.

Donna - They took his heart out of his body and *buried* it there.

Anne - He left his heart in . . . . that's where his heart was. And so, I always wanted to go. Well, you know, back in '86, our conference had um, a mission trip, to Africa, and that's where we went, to Old Mutare.

Donna - How do you spell that?

Anne - M-U-T-A-R-E. It's one of the four largest cities in Zimbabwe.

Donna - Mm, hm.

Anne - Which used to be Rhodesia. Well, this plan had been submitted, uh, about having a University. And so our job was to look it over. So we went, took pictures of the bare land, and all of that stuff, came back, and we had to go to all of the churches in Kansas City and show our slides and talk about raising money to, to establish a university. And when I made my report to Trinity, it was the first day, the first time that Tom Maddox, and Randy.

Donna - Oh.

Anne - And Steve Gass were in church.

Donna - Oh, my.

Anne - And I talked to Steve as he went out, and he was the son of Raymond Gass who was one of my students' friends in Saint Paul, and they made quite a contribution. But anyway, I was telling them, last month was the 20th anniversary of that Africa University. Fifty-two percent of the students are women.

Donna - Oh, my.

Anne - And 22 different countries of the 59 in Africa are represented in the student body. So that's what I talked about the other day. But see, I got that because I was in a junior high group with my family years and years ago when I was about eight years old.

Donna - Yeah. We never know how things are going to lead to, from one thing to another. What do you, what do you think, what is the, what impact do you think, having so many female, um, clergy, is having, um, or can have on, on the church.

Anne - Well, I'm not any authority on that. My stepmother, uh, studied, and she was a local pastor. And when she had her first assignment in Nebraska, My dad had just retired at that time, and so he was her associate.

Donna - Oh.

Anne - Everything was fine except for weddings. They wanted the man to perform the ceremony. And that's what our women encountered. People didn't want a woman pastor, but now we're having a lot of them, and very effective.

Donna - Mm, hm.

Anne - Uh, I suspect there's still some reservations about it.

Donna - Mm, hm.

Anne - But, that's the way it is, it's going to be. And you know the other thing, the Catholic Church won't have women priests or anything, and we've, we, struggled with that a long while, too. Our other denominations about women ministers. And do you know there were women ministers in the Bible? So why are they fighting it? You know Philip, the disciple.

Donna - Mm, hm.

Anne - And when Paul was on a trip he stopped at Philip's house over a night, or two days, or whatever, and Philip and his *four daughters*, who were ministers.

Donna - Hm. Hm. Hm.

Anne - I'd never read that before.

Donna - Huh.

Anne - I don't think I've ever. . . .

Anne - So why, if we're so big on the Scriptures, why can't we just take the Scriptures and go with it and forget about all of this. It's taken us an awful long time.

Donna - Mm, hm.

Anne - But I got a big kick out of that. You know, you learn a lot when you start to reading things. The other thing I found out, was when we were studying um, in uh, Mark, and they mention Moses taking a second wife. I can't remember ever reading that before. And I know I have because I've read the Bible two or three times, just. And then the other thing was that Miriam and Aaron, uh, talked to God, and they complained that Moses was getting all the front press. Why didn't they get some. They were doing the work, too.

Donna - Uh, huh.

Anne - And besides, they didn't like that wife. And so the Lord sent them to the whippin' shed. To the tent out in the wilderness. "I want to meet you out there." "Okay." And then he really landed on Miriam. Really gave her a hard time. And told her she was going to be banished. And Aaron said, "Oh, don't do that. We can't get along without her. She does so much." The Lord, and he visited upon her, as punishment, a state of leprosy.

Donna - What book is this in?

Anne - Matthew. No, Mark. We were reading Mark.* and, uh, Aaron says, uh, "Oh, don't do that." "Well, she's got to be punished, so I'll just make it a week." So the whole bunch waited a week for Miriam to get rid of her punishment and her leprosy and go back and they could start their journey through the desert again. Now that's a pretty specific story, isn't it?

Donna - Yes, it is.

Anne - And I can't remember ever reading that before.

Donna - Yeah.

Anne - And I never in my life heard about Moses having a second wife.

Donna - Yeah. I don't know. Hm.

Anne - But then they also talked about two Jezebels, when we were talking about women in the Bible.

Donna - Oh. Uh, huh.

Anne - I didn't know there was but one.

Donna - Uh, huh.

Anne - Well, the second one was referred to in Revelation. We had studied Revelation. And I said, "I don't remember that." I looked it up and I even underlined it.

Donna - Yeah.

[laughter]

Anne - But the thing was, I didn't think of her as a second. I thought they were referring to the first one.

Donna - Uh, huh.

Anne - So, you learn lots of things when you really put your mind to it.

Donna - Yeah. Right? Right?

[laughter] Well, if you're looking.

Anne - And I had 'em reading the, the, one of the books, as if it were a novel.

Donna - Oh, yeah. Uh, huh.

Anne - Yeah, just to sit down and read it through and see what all had happened. I'm having fun with that.

Donna - Well, that's great.

Anne - It keeps me out of mischief and gives me something to do.

Donna - Mm, hm. [laughter] Good. Well, I'm going to draw this to a close now.

Anne - Okay.

Donna - Thank you very much, Anne.

Anne - Well, thank you. I think this was . . . wonderful. I didn't know what adjective to use.